

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.71

1930

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
MAR 18 1930



A True HOODACRES WHITE Delphinium *bl*
PEARL NECKLACE Glistening White Throughout

HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

(PERENNIAL LARKSPURS)

Greeting from the Plantman

Though small, this booklet is carefully prepared with accurate information on Delphiniums and is intended to be worth preserving for reference. Should it happen to come to one who is not interested it will be considered a favor if that person will kindly pass it on. Some have taken the trouble to send names of friends who garden with intelligence and skill to whom copies may be sent. And I also wish to thank the many who report on the character of plants received and the results from Hoodacres seeds.

Unusual interest now centers about the *new* HOODACRES WHITE varieties, and since they are coming into prominence both here and abroad, I shall especially appreciate all reports from those growing them.



HOODACRES Larkspur farm and display field is located directly on *Columbia River Highway*, a great scenic drive of the western world, five miles out from Portland city limits and midway between Portland and Troutdale. (Office formerly at 1552 Union Avenue, Portland.) Take Sandy Road to Birdsdale Avenue.

Some Delphiniums are blooming throughout the season; largest showing late May through June, September and October. Visitors are always welcome.

Chas. F. Barber

TROUTDALE, OREGON

(Mail and wire address)

Phone Gresham LD 5071

1930



NOT a commendation in this booklet was solicited.
On that account these letters are worth your perusal.

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ MAR 18 1930 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture



DELPHINIUM STATELINESS—Eight and nine-foot spires in the walled garden of Mr. Harry A. Roberts, at Oak Grove, Oregon. Compare height with the tall Japanese Iris just in front. (Another section of this beautiful garden on back cover.)



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS have been developing over a period of more than 25 years. Remarkable as they are for great range of rarest coloring, variety of floret forms and towering spikes of luxuriant bloom, these features rest on the great constitutional vigor of the strain. We are constantly complimented on the root system carried by our plants.

The demand for *Hoodacres Delphiniums* made it imperative that greatly enlarged growing conditions be provided. The *Columbia River Highway*, being a famous scenic drive, seemed the logical direction, and good fortune attended the selection; splendid soil, prominent and pleasing location, together with nearness to the city of Portland and consequent accessibility to visitors, made it quite ideal.

In this new tract, containing seven and a half acres, we are still better prepared to send out plants of great vigor and highest quality; also to accept and fill very large orders. Here also the conditions for plant breeding will allow of greatly extended work in that direction and the public will be informed of the new things from time to time.



Note the Kind of Roots We Send Out

Lockport, New York, July, 1928.

"I have purchased quite a variety of Delphiniums from various growers, but the plants you shipped me in the spring produced the finest flowers in all my collection.

"It is evident that you have not only put a great deal of science in your propagation of Delphiniums, but also skill, love and thought. I congratulate you on your success."

Keene, New Hampshire, February, 1929.

"I ought to have written you before that the dozen Delphiniums you sent a year ago last fall had the best roots I have ever received, even from much larger plants. Last summer and fall they were wonderful and were the glory of my garden."



STAINED GLASS. Most beautiful in every way—splendid growth, shapely spike, large flowers with pinky mauve coloring, and translucent, like stained glass. No plants yet, but a limited supply of seeds 1930 crop.

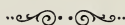


HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

Wrexham or "Hollyhock" Delphiniums

This strain is now extensively known for its massive, garden-display, spikes of bloom—broad at the base and tapering, so we need only say that, having been the first to introduce these plants to the growers in the United States, with a large initial planting, we continue to grow them in large numbers, literally acre lots, and are prepared to send out the finest specimens to be had outside the originator's garden.

The illustration on opposite page is intended to represent the type and show the full development of a plant, instead of a single spike.



While we do not follow the questionable practice of sending out mere seedlings under the seed-parents' names, for hybrid Delphiniums come various from seed, we do produce a large number of true and typical *Wrexhams* and these we offer to discriminating buyers. Fine specimen plants, light or dark shades, at \$3.00 to \$5.00 each.

Devils Lake, Michigan, July, 1929.

"As a commercial grower of high grade Delphiniums, I am interested in acquiring a pure strain of the *Wrexham* variety. I have bought so-called *Wrexhams* from other Western specialists, but have found none possessing the distinctive traits attributed to this strain, except as obtained from you."

Grayville, Illinois, October, 1929.

"Thank you very much for your interest in my orders. It is a pleasure to deal with an individual not just an institution. Your plants have been splendidly healthy and I am glad to send so far."



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS



A typical WREXHAM



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

Chaste White Delphiniums

The New HOODACRES WHITES

One of the loveliest flowers imaginable is a well grown White Delphinium. Its beautiful formation and glistening purity charm when other white flowers do not appeal, and even one spike introduced in a vase of others makes the high-light, so essential to a perfect picture. Upon the vigorous foundation stock of Hoodacres plantings has been born the new race, called HOODACRES WHITES, a revelation to the world and the dream of many come true; the most surprising Delphinium development of the century.

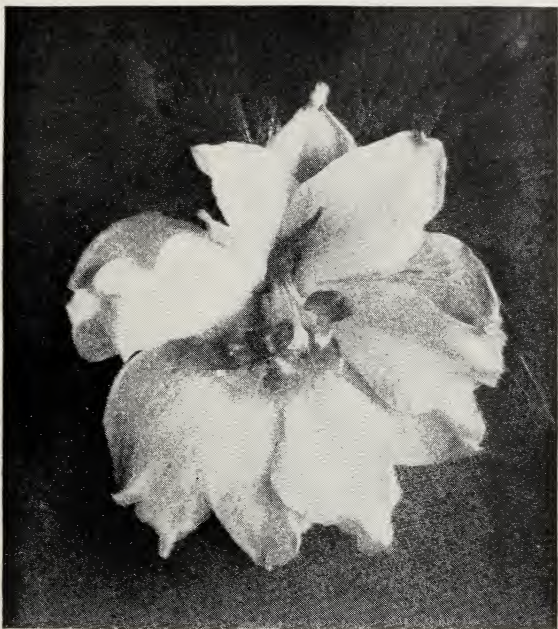
After many years of skillful endeavor by the breeders of the world to produce a good semi-double White Delphinium, it remained for HOODACRES, in America, to bring forth this remarkable accomplishment. And it has been done with the fewest possible intermediate stages of development. The magnificent spikes of purest white are carried as tall and on just as rugged plants as the ones with color. This will be observed in the photographs re-produced in this booklet. *There are no duplicates of these WHITES anywhere in the world.*

While these pages may carry beautiful illustrations of things grown at Hoodacres, they cannot reproduce the spectacle of living specimens, and the imagination of the reader must be invoked to visualize them. Going into the White garden here in the edge of the evening is like entering a land of enchantment where the ranks of an army are filled with soldiers of peace.

Albinos of the past have been weak, shabbily clothed and unfit to appear in good company. Quite as by magic these white creations came, leaving the hybridizers puzzling as to how it was brought about.



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS



ANGEL'S BREATH. Clear white, fawn center. Typical for size, form and substance of all HOODACRES WHITES.

San Francisco, June 21, 1929.

"The WHITE Delphinium plants — Pearl Necklace and two seedlings purchased from you in January—are in bloom, and I cannot express in words their beauty and charm. They are far beyond in purity of color what I thought a White Delphinium could be. They are marvelous.

"In looking over my records, I find that in the past years we have won four first prizes, including a silver cup, with HOODACRES seeds. I am sure you will be interested to hear this report of your Delphinium family."

—Mrs. M. A. Harris.



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

White Varieties

WHITE SISTER. Clear white double flowers of good size and fine form, well set on medium length spikes, the whole plant representing the same health and good breeding as seen in the best colored varieties. Strong plants **\$10.00** each.

PEARL NECKLACE. Large flowers of the purest glistening white and carried on a splendid size spike. This is an outstanding creation with its vigorous growth and luxuriant foliage. It would be difficult for the imagination to picture anything finer for purity and loveliness. Strong plants **\$25.00** each.

ANGEL'S BREATH. Think of all the features that go to make up the beauty of Pearl Necklace, but in place of the clear white center, imagine one of fawn, and you have Angel's Breath. Strong plants **\$15.00** each.

SNOW BOUND. Much as other Hoodacres white varieties, except that absence of the usual number of petaloids at the center exposes the tiny black-tipped stamens, affording an attractive feature. Strong plants **\$20.00** each.

THE BRIDE. Blush white. No plants this season.

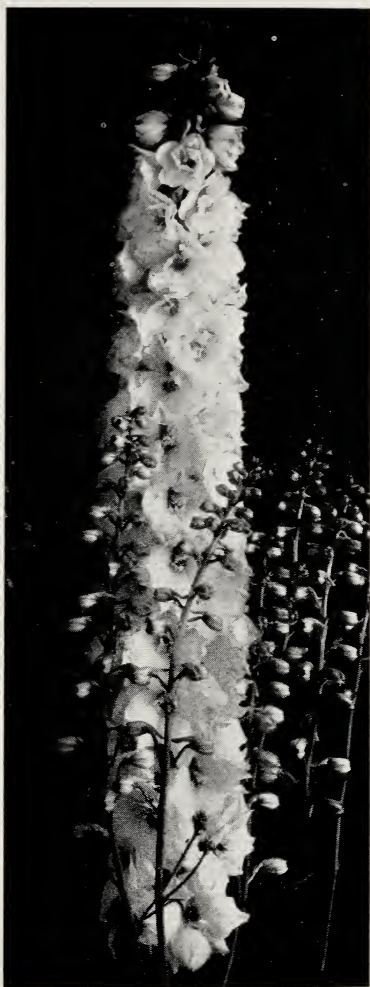
BRIDAL GOWN. A Hoodacres white with single blossoms. Handsome flowers and excellent plants but florets either single or only partly doubled. Strong plants **\$5.00** each.

HOODACRES WHITE SEEDS. Packets containing not less than 100, \$5.00. (These packets contain seeds of the various double varieties only.)



Warren, Ohio,
February 10, 1930.

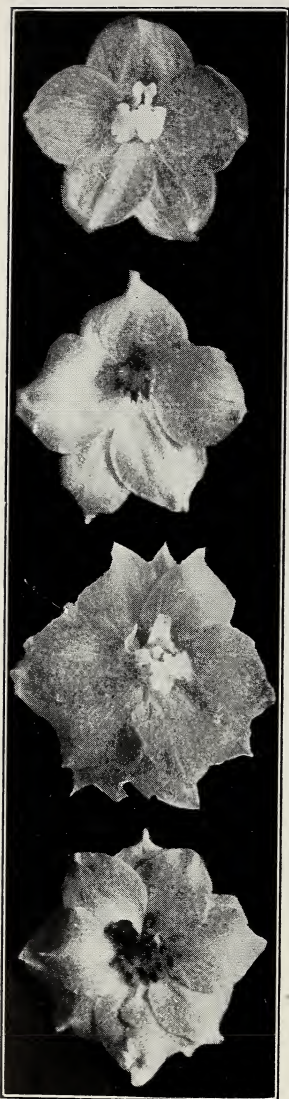
"I consider your *Whites*
the greatest achievement
ever accomplished in
Delphinium breeding
and if one of the big
English growers had
originated them, we
would be paying much
more than you charge
for a packet of seed."



HOODACRES WHITE
BRIDESMAID

Note Perfection, Size and Vigor

Delphinium Classifications



White Centered Singles

Apache, light
Cayuga, medium
Eskimo, dark

Dark Centered Singles

Biloxi, light
Dakota, medium
Fonecha, dark

White Centered Semi-Doubles and Doubles

Navajo, light
Pawnee, medium
Rama, dark

Dark Centered Semi-Doubles and Doubles

Ottawa, light
Quapaw, medium
Shasta, dark



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

Selected Hoodacres Hybrids

UNNAMED

Cannot be too highly recommended, and just escape being set aside and named by reason of their close similarity to others that are so honored. They are the seedling product of the finest varieties the world affords, grown to large blooming specimens before they are sent out. Some of the parents are wonderful new kinds, not for sale at any price.

From the many thousand plants so created, is selected each season, at time of blooming, by a system of careful checking, a limited number of exceptional merit that are distinguished into *light*, *medium* and *dark* shades, as well as other characteristics outlined in the Classification, page 12. These *must not be confused with named kinds* referred to elsewhere in this catalog, although they vie with them in general excellence.

(No named varieties can be selected under this head)

Unselected Hoodacres Hybrids

are sold from the general planting, after all doubtful ones have been eliminated when in bloom. Many forms and colors. These give remarkable satisfaction and frequently single specimens are found to be worth the cost of a dozen. The price is low enough to encourage liberal planting. Do you know the pleasure of a Delphinium patch from which to cut freely for indoor decoration?



Plants are usually shipped by express.



“What is worth coveting is worth purchasing.”



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

Delphinium Plants

SELECTED Hoodacres Hybrids. Each plant systematically estimated and labeled for color and character value at time of blooming. Can supply light, medium or dark shades. **\$1.00** each, **\$10.00** dozen.

UNSELECTED Hoodacres Hybrids. Of same age as above, without selection. **\$3.00** dozen, 2 dozen **\$5.00**.

HOODACRES-WREXHAM Hybrids. As the name implies, these are from Hoodacres and Wrexham crossing and contain some exceptional specimens. **\$2.00** each, **\$20.00** doz.

WREXHAM Strain. Typical spikes. **\$3.00** and **\$5.00** each.

HOODACRES WHITE prices on page 10.

Small Seedlings ::: Spring Shipment Only

The demand each spring for small unbloomed plants prompts us to offer them through this catalog. They are from August sowings, *carried through winter in open outdoor frames*, insuring splendid vigor, transplanted, and then made ready to ship anywhere on the North American continent safely. From the following *seed stock*:

HOODACRES complete range of shades and forms.

From LIGHT SHADES only.

From DARK SHADES only.

WREXHAM strain separate.

One dozen **\$3.00**, 2 dozen **\$5.00**

(For Delphinium Seeds, see page 16)



Class Spikes: BILOXI, SHASTA, HOODACRES WHITE,
RAMA, QUAPAW, in their order.



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

Seeds of Hoodacres Delphiniums

One of the most exacting operations at Hoodacres is the protection and collection of *seeds* from prepared specimen plants. Only such are used—we do not gather from the general planting.

As all our advancement over existing kinds comes by cross pollenization through seeds, the skillful preparation of these tiny germs holds a great prophecy for next year's revelations. From many reports the quality of HOOD-ACRES seedlings is unrivaled, particularly in the number of exceptional specimens produced.

HOODACRES, complete range of shades and forms, liberal packets, **\$1.00**.

CLASSIFIED, 12 types (see page 12), in separate packets only:

Navajo, Ottawa, Pawnee, Quapaw, Rama, Shasta, double flowers, packets, **\$1.00** each.

Apache, Biloxi, Cayuga, Dakota, Eskimo, Fonecha, single flowers, packets, **50c** each.

The set of 12 packets, **\$7.50**.

WREXHAM (Hollyhock) strain, alone, packet, **\$1.00**.

HOODACRES WHITE, double varieties mixed, packet, **\$5.00**.

HOODACRES DEEP BLUES, new. Large double flowers impressively rich in coloring (from 1930 crop), pkt. **\$2.00**.

STAINED GLASS, translucent pinky mauve (from 1930 crop), packet, **\$2.00**.

Hubbard Woods, Illinois, December, 1929

“My garden friends in this locality have had such wonderful results from your *Delphinium* seed, known as ‘HOOD-ACRES Complete Range of Shades and Forms,’ that I am anxious to try them.”

How to Grow Delphiniums from Seeds

The seed-bed, whether flats, cold-frame or open ground, should be composed of fine loamy soil, with sand added, if



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

required, for perfect friability, and containing some leaf mold. Late summer sowing, preferably in cold-frames without glass, but *shaded until germination takes place* (where they may remain over winter), will bring flowering plants the following summer. Very early spring sowing in gentle heat will also produce some bloom the same season (greenhouse or hotbed). Some bottom heat facilitates and accelerates germination at this season of the year. Later spring sowing will furnish plants for blooming the following June.

Once transplanted before going into permanent place induces a fuller root system. *Never let the seed-bed dry out for even a moment.*

Sowing Delphinium seeds in open ground invites disappointment—planting in cold-frame with raised soil vastly better. Give plenty of air and use glass only as necessary.

A half-inch layer of sand on top of the seed-bed will afford winter protection, discourage slugs, and also prevent crust.

Hoodacres seeds are harvested throughout the month of July and are usually ready to send out the first week in August, just in time to be sown for carrying over winter.

It is unsafe to sow out-of-doors after August (except in California and similar climates), as frost will lift the too small plants.

Delphinium seeds are only at their best when fresh and should not be counted upon when more than one year old. The fresher they are the more prompt will be germination. We never send out old harvesting.

Seed boxes prepared as follows will be found to give exceptional results: After providing drainage holes, fill the lowest one inch with cracked oyster shell and over this place a thin layer of peat moss. Then complete with soil made up of two parts garden loam, one part leaf mold and one part sand. This is a nearly perfect planting medium.

Hoodacres Plants in Far-away New Zealand

We ship almost the world around.

Auckland, 2 February,
1929.

"I received the Delphinium plants on the afternoon of Wednesday last (30 January) * * They were most beautifully packed, but we noticed that the top ones were in much the better condition. * *

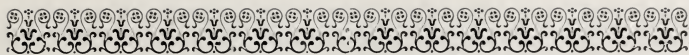
"We put them all into deep boxes, with well prepared soil and sand, placed low down in our little glass house, with plenty of air. This was done on the eve of their arrival and you can imagine my delight, early of Friday morning, to find that the driest plants on arrival had sent up beautiful shoots."



HOODACRES SEEDLING
14 weeks old.

HOODACRES SEEDLINGS in the same garden.

In May came the following report from Mrs. Algie on Hoodacres seeds: "I am sending you two photos of the first ones to flower and they were then three months and one week old. No. 1 (reproduced above) is the loveliest thing I've ever seen in a garden; color the blue of a really clear sky after a week of rain, double, and each petal outlined with a 'scallop' design in mauve as if it had been done with the finest pen—the center a true fawn. With a tape measure, not stretched, the blooms were $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches across and the blooms of the side shoots opened to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches."



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

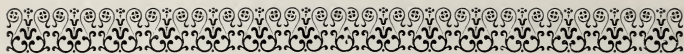
Their Culture

Plants are safely moved throughout the fall and *early* spring, but may suffer if moved in late spring. Except in very wet, cold soils, *autumn planting is strongly recommended.*

Delphiniums set in autumn make unchecked headway when the spring urge comes and therefore make better showing than those set in spring; they are among the first herbaceous plants to start growth. After getting well grown plants, allow ample space for each and open the earth eighteen inches *or more in depth* and as much in breadth, filling one-half with rough humus soil (old sods will do) well tamped.

If the sub-soil is very heavy, dig the hole six inches deeper and fill that depth with coarse gravel to insure perfect drainage. Complete filling with the best soil you can provide, preferably containing some leaf mold, and made thoroughly friable. If of a clayey nature, incorporate sand to prevent caking, as much of the vigor of the plant comes from the tiny surface roots. Set plants two feet apart, with crowns two inches below the surface, the roots well spread and soil firmed against them before leveling. Avoid dense shade, roots of trees, and stuffy locations.

When growth first starts in spring, dig around each plant a trowel of bone-meal. Cut faded spikes to prevent seeding. It is the nature of hybrid Delphiniums to *bloom a second time* in the season and as the second growth appears the old stalk yellows, is no longer required, and should be cut down. Do not force this second growth; rather allow a short resting period, then give another supply of bone-meal, *being careful not to destroy the fine surface-feeding roots*, and water generously. If the weaker growths are removed when plants are a few inches high, the remaining ones will benefit. Well-grown Delphiniums will bloom the first season after planting and, being true perennials, should, with favorable conditions, increase in size and grandeur each year.



Garden Enemies

Although hardly known on the Pacific Coast, in some sections there has been trouble from a disease called "blight" or "back spot," which starts with black spots on the leaves that extend and enlarge until the entire growth of the plant is killed. Also, there is a form of root rot that seems to prevail in some places. An effective cure is said to be a government formula, as follows: Mercuric Chloride, 1 gram; Sodium Nitrate, 1 gram; Water, 5½ gallons. Apply with a sprinkler close in so as to get down to the roots. It will not injure the foliage and takes care of both the spot and root rot.

If plants show a weak or unhealthy condition, not due to the above troubles, it may be the soil is not healthy. Try the following: Unslaked lime, 2 pounds; water, 5 gallons; tobacco dust, ½ pound. Slake lime and add tobacco dust, then when using, dilute in proportion of 1 to 12 and saturate the ground freely, repeating as needed.

Also, the standard lime-sulphur solution as diluted for orchard spray is an excellent and safe corrective on Delphinium ground.

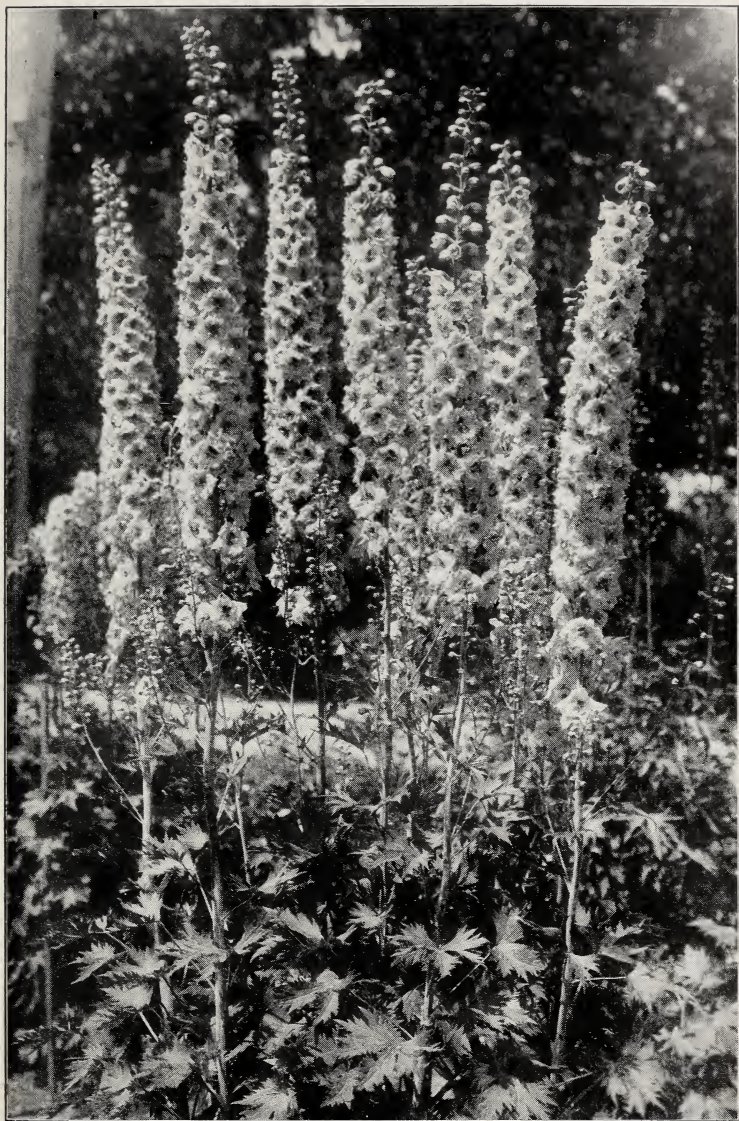
We are told that "Mildew will not be known, neither the black spot, if sprayed with lime-sulphur solution, adding *Black-leaf 40*" (one tablespoon to 3 gallons).

In mild climates the slug sometimes becomes a pest, destroying the young growths of various plants. Here are several recommended formulas for battling with them:

Pound fine copper sulphate crystals and strew on the ground where slugs work—merely touching it dries them up. It is very poisonous and must be handled with care.

One pound calcium arsenate to 16 pounds bran mixed with water to just crumble. Sprinkle at night when not raining.

One-half teaspoon permanganate of potash and one-half teaspoon salt to two gallons water. Wetting the ground with this brings them quickly to the surface.



One plant standing seven feet in height of many field grown unfertilized HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

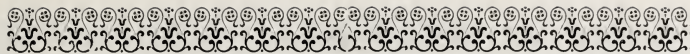
Delphinium Companions

TOWER BELLS. Campanulas of the new "Giant" peach-bells class, standing four to five feet high with tough stems, clothed their length with great bells of Bradley's Violet. Splendid Delphinium companions, hardy and long blooming. (Sold so close last season cannot offer again until 1931.)

NEW VIOLA—JERSEY JEWELL. A vast improvement over the fine variety, Jersey Gem. Twice the size of blossoms and true "Pansy Violet" color. Perpetual flowering habit and very profuse. Plants build up into large clumps, sheeted over with bloom. **\$5.00** per dozen, **50c** each.

TESTACEUM LILIES. With its imposing stature, beautiful "Nankeen" yellow color, exquisite fragrance, and healthy growth in ordinary soil, this is one of the most prized lilies grown and the admiration of all who see it. (Withdrawn until stock built up.)

WASHINGTONIANUM (OR MT. HOOD) LILIES. Its beautiful blossoms are very abundant, funnel-shaped, and opening white with purple dots in the throat, change like the trilliums until they finish in a rich wine color. Where established in Oregon gardens they grow to five and six feet, but are usually seen at three to four feet in height. It is not stem rooting and succeeds well in its own state planted only four inches deep, but should be set deeper in more rigorous climates, and with sure drainage. It does well in soils of differing character. Strong blooming size bulbs **50c** each, **\$5.00** a dozen.



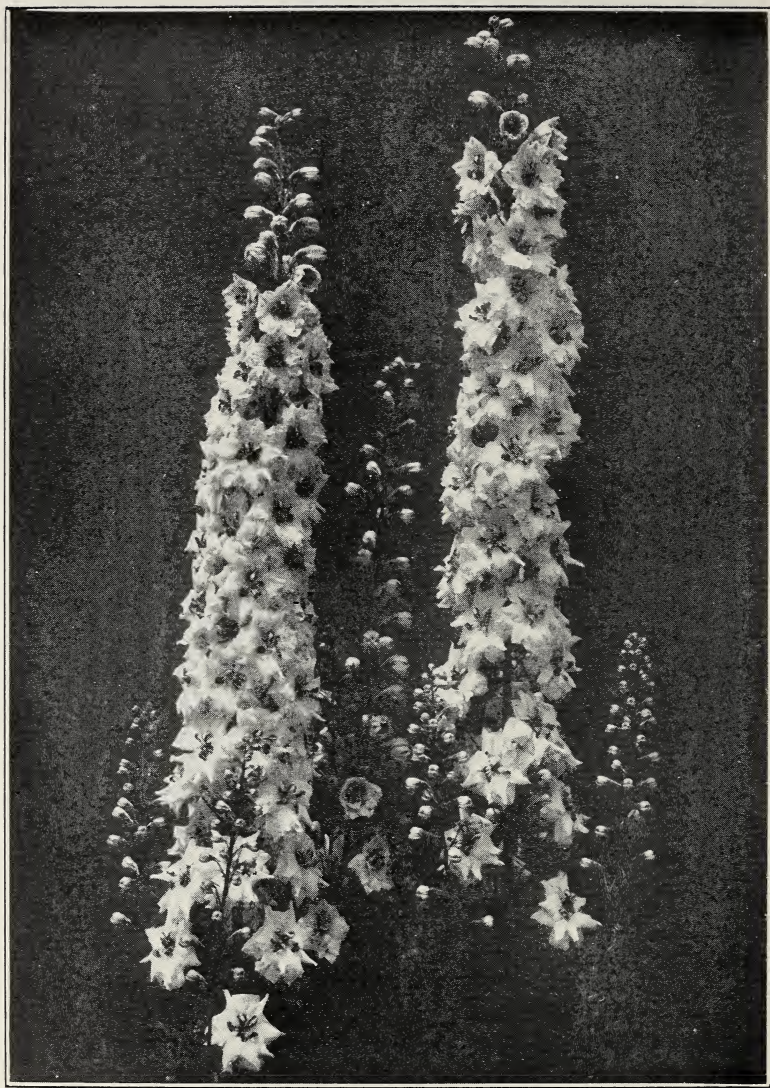
HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

REGALE LILIES are coming to be well known as handsome garden subjects and reliable in many climes and conditions, for it comes from a forbidding mountain country on the confines of Thibet where, as Mr. Wilson tells us, "In summer the heat is terrific, in winter the cold is intense." The flowers are large and white, with a very light yellow throat, and outside shaded winy. Being a stem-rooting bulb, it must be set deeply, eight to ten inches. Fine blooming bulbs in two sizes, **50c** and **\$1.00** each, 10% less by the dozen.

THE GARDEN TRIM. The ideal edging plant that shines also in the rockery and becomes a most charming and lasting cut flower is the new *Hybrid Heuchera*. A new race of "Coral Bells" with greater vigor and blooming power, in shades from pure white through pink to coral and brilliant reds to maroon. They make a flowing stream of color when edging the borders. We are now supplying *Rain of Fire*, a brilliant red. Plants **40c** each, **\$4.00** per dozen. Other shades when stock warrants.

AUBRETIA (trailing alpine perennial). Catalogs list rock garden and edging plants in thousands of varieties, yet the visitor to your garden in bloom will ignore as uninteresting just about 90% of that miscellanea. It is in the other and smaller class that we find the jewels of the alpine and one of the showiest is the Aubretia. A good planting of it is a feast by itself and one can afford to forget its congeners for the time. Its sheets of color are best in purples, violets and crimsons, but not so pleasing are the paler shades that crop out freely in seedlings. That is why we offer these deep colors in strong plants. **40c** each, **\$4.00** dozen.

We cannot fill plant orders for less than \$1.00



HARLEQUIN displays a fancy spreading center to light colored semi-double florets.



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

Lantern Slides for Delphinium Talks

Occasionally Mr. Barber is inveigled into giving Delphinium talks before Garden Clubs, but, not being a lecturer, relies upon a small set of colored slides, illustrative of the modern Delphinium in its various forms, colors and uses, to keep the audience from flocking out. These slides, including a few on companion plants, and now numbering 35 or more, will be gladly loaned to accredited Garden Clubs, as available, when "Delphiniums" is to be the meeting topic. The Club is to be responsible for their safe and prompt return and the mailing charges going and coming. It will be well to make application a month in advance.

All Letters in this Catalog are Entirely Spontaneous

Guadalajara, Jal., Mexico, November 26, 1927.

"The Delphiniums arrived in fine condition. I am sending my check to cover the cost, and sending, of one more dozen of the Selected Hoodacres Hybrids. Please pack in the same manner as the first order."

FROM A DELPHINIUM SPECIALIST

Devils Lake, Michigan, August, 1929.

"I have just received your latest catalog. The photographs of your White Delphiniums fall far short of their due. While I did not think to actually measure the length of my best White one, while in bloom, I am certain it was 24 inches long. Their vigor puts many of the blues to shame. You must feel very proud of your achievement."

—Leo J. Reger.

Washington, Penna., June 25, 1928.

"I will say in regard to you and your plants: They are better by far than any we have raised, considering the fact that we have some 50,000 now growing in our nursery, from imported English strains and other Delphinium Specialists in America."



HOODACRES ON THE HIGHWAY

The American Delphinium Society

Although young, this notable organization is growing steadily and healthily. It has set up no campaign for members, but without other solicitation than such notes as this is drawing them to itself from all sections where Delphiniums are known and grown, and this is significant of the great interest that prevails. It began the new year with an enrollment of 485 and additions are constantly coming in.

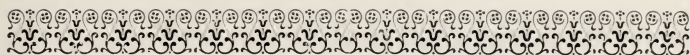
Such an organization can be of inestimable value to Delphinium development as a whole and to each individual composing it. If you are interested in Delphinium culture, you are invited to join in making the American Delphinium Society the peer of any flower organization in the world.

One of its activities is the monthly publication of articles and notes on all subjects of interest in connection with this flower, especially those relating to culture. Records of development in all parts of the world will also be included. This is "*Delphinium Lore*," a prominent department of the magazine "*Better Flowers*," and is sent to all members, and all members are invited to contribute to its pages.

Until January, 1931, enrollment and annual dues will remain \$1.50. Applications should be sent to American Delphinium Society, c/o Secretary, Pittock Block, Portland, Oregon.

Pomfret Centre, Massachusetts, September, 1929.

"I have twice had a few of your Delphiniums and have found them more beautiful than any I have ever seen. I now want to order a larger quantity and, if possible, to have them make a show next year." (The order, including Hoodacres Whites, amounted to over 400 mature plants of highest quality.)



HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

When Delphiniums Bloom

It is not difficult to comprehend why gardeners grow Delphiniums, or perennial Larkspurs. They do not grow them for profit, although those who tend the flowers may be commercial gardeners. They do not grow them for gain solely. If you have seen a garden of Delphiniums in full flower, ranging from the hue of a starless twilight to that of cloudless summer noon, you will know that gardeners could not think wholly of profit and grow Delphiniums. For if they were to begin thinking in this wise, there is so much money to be made of seedlings and seed, presently they must stand mused before the blossoms, giving thanks to creation. And they would be thinking, "Here is a sunset over the far sea"; and thinking, "Here is night as she comes to the valley"; and their thoughts would be far from dollars and dross.

It is simple enough to lose one's heart to any flower. The loveliness of it grows in the loam of one's heart and blooms there until the season of that flower is anticipated and a hunger comes for the witnessing of it. New leaves emerge from the soil, and bending over them, that delicate fragile green, one considers that they must bloom some day. And the flower stalk rises from amid the foliage, and buds appear, and eagerness hovers the miracle. It will be soon, now. It is in this wise that gardeners watch the Delphinium, and more observantly than any other of the garden's guests.

Nor are they ever unrewarded. There is a morning when the spires unfold, and modestly, and day to day the Delphiniums increase in stately stature and quaint beauty until there is no dream of blue that does not find its counterpart in the garden. There are tints past dreaming, as must ever be the case when the creative artistry vies with the fancy of mortals. Delphiniums are very satisfactory. To walk among them is to feel that providence is not unmindful of beauty, that it takes thought of the nurture of the spirit, and that the Delphiniums hold speech with you. There is a white-crowned sparrow singing in the rose. — Ben Hur Lampman in *The Oregonian*.

